

Preparation: pragmatics

I. Name the sentence types (exclamative, declarative etc.):

1. What is your name? WH-INTERROGATIVE (a directive speech act)
2. I am such a happy person! EXCLAMATIVE (an expressive speech act)
3. Did Jack go to school yesterday? POLAR INTERROGATIVE (question)
4. I haven't seen her since September. DECLARATIVE (representative/assertive speech act)
5. Go to your room! IMPERATIVE (directive speech act)

II. Name the types of direct speech acts:

1. I now pronounce you husband and wife. DECLARATION
2. Yesterday, we went to the cinema and watched the latest Star Wars movie.
ASSERTIVE/REPRESENTATIVE
3. Give me some more time. DIRECTIVE
4. Thank you for your support. EXPRESSIVE
5. I will make you pay for what you did. COMMISSIVE

III. For each of the following utterances, name

- a. the clause type (declarative/interrogative/imperative)
- b. the indirect speech act (assertive/representative, commissive, directive, declaration, expressive)

1. The meeting is adjourned.
Clause type: declarative
Indirect speech act: directive speech act/declaration
2. I suggest you read these three books here and then draft an outline.
Clause type: declarative
Indirect speech act: directive
3. Isn't that just the best idea we've heard so far?
Clause type: polar interrogative
Indirect speech act: directive/expressive/representative

4. Can't you sit still for a minute?
Clause type: polar interrogative
Indirect speech act: directive
5. Why don't you come over to dinner some time?
Clause type: wh-interrogative
Indirect speech act: directive
6. You may want to change this paragraph here.

Sentence type: declarative

Indirect speech act: directive

IV. Think about which conversational maxims of the Cooperative Principle are being violated or flouted in the examples below:

1. A: Would you like a piece of cake?
B: I think that Bill has been very rude towards me recently.
The Maxim of Relevance/Relation
2. A: Can you open the window?
B: Sure, just a moment, please.
Flouted: The Maxim of Quantity
3. A: Have you brought John with you?
B: Do I look like an idiot?
The Maxim of Manner/Relation/Quantity
4. A: What's the weather like today?
B: I am going to put my coat on.
The Maxim of Manner/Quantity/Relation